

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of defining internal structural borders in a medical ultrasonic image (208) comprising the steps of:

placing at least one geometric shape in a proximal relationship to a feature in the ultrasonic image (208);

locating at least one starting point within the at least one geometric shape; and

detecting a tissue border and/or structure within a portion of the ultrasonic image (208) bordered by the at least one shape, the detection is performed using one or more shapes selected from a set of predetermined shapes, each having generally the shape of a bodily tissue or structure and a fuzzy border region.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the ultrasonic image (208) with delineations, the delineations identifying the detected tissue border and/or structure.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the placing step further includes adjusting at least one parameter from a set of parameters of the at least one selected geometric shape to approximate the shape of the feature.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the set of parameters includes size, position and orientation.

5. An ultrasound imaging system configured and disposed for defining internal structural borders in a medical ultrasonic image (208) comprising:

an ultrasound transducer probe (206) configured for producing ultrasound signals, directing the ultrasound signals towards a target to be imaged, and detecting the ultrasound signals reflected from the target;

a display screen (204) for displaying the reflected ultrasound signals in an operator-viewable format;

means for enabling an operator to indicate a region of interest (RoI) by placing at least one geometric shape in a proximal relationship to the RoI; and

a processor (201) comprising:

means for locating at least one starting point within the at least one shape; and

means for detecting a tissue border and/or structure within a portion of the ultrasonic image (208) bordered by the at least one shape by using one or more shapes

selected from a set of predetermined shapes, each having generally the shape of a bodily tissue or structure and a fuzzy border region.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the display screen (204) displays the ultrasound image (208) with a plurality of delineations, the delineations identifying the tissue border and/or structure on the display screen.

7. The system of claim 5, further comprising means for adjusting at least one parameter from a set of parameters of the at least one selected geometric shape to approximate the shape of the feature.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the set of parameters includes size, position and orientation.

9. A computer readable medium comprising a set of computer readable instructions capable of being executed by at least one processor (201) for defining internal structural borders in a medical ultrasonic image (208) comprising the steps of:

placing at least one geometric shape in a proximal relationship to a feature in the ultrasonic image (208);

locating at least one starting point within the at least one geometric shape; and

detecting a tissue border and/or structure within a portion of the ultrasonic image (208) bordered by the at least one shape using one or more shapes selected from a set of predetermined shapes, each having generally the shape of a bodily tissue or structure and a fuzzy border region.